

(Received via e-mail)

From: Laurel Ames
To: Pamela Creedon
Date: 1/31/2009 3:04 PM
Subject: Rubicon Trail

Dear Ms Creedon,

Thank you for taking action on the extensive water quality damage created by the erosion and human defecation along the Rubicon Trail. It is disgusting and a horrible example of the failure of some sports to police the damage they cause. The County of El Dorado wanted this road and claimed it from the Forest Service and now must be responsible for the actions of those who use it.

While use permits or a toll road have been suggested as mechanisms to fund maintenance of the road to the County in the past, the County has relied on volunteers to clean up a growing problem. The County Health Department eventually had to close campsites close to Spider Lake, due to the really, really disgusting state of that camping area.

If I remember right, the State of California even gave the County close to a half million dollars to develop a plan to manage the road.

It is clear that the County is incapable of taking action until forced to do it. They will scream budget cutbacks, etc, but, given a simple and clear source of funds, with a well-established mechanism to collect the funds needed - through a permit system or a toll road - there is really no excuse at all.

Please stay on top of this issue. This road traverses a beautiful area, that I have hiked to often, and its damage is heart-breaking. As a source of clean water to both El Dorado County residents and millions in Sacramento, it is important that our source waters are protected through maximum efforts, both in restoration and maintenance.

Thank you for your efforts to protect the waters of the State of California.